

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

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R 130753Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1180

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, PL, FR

SUBJECT: PONIATOWSKI VISIT TO POLAND, SEPT 5-9

1. FRENCH INTERIOR MINISTER MICHEL PONIATOWSKI GOT THE RED CARPET DURING HIS FIVE-DAY VISIT HERE, INCLUDING RECEPTION BY PZPR FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD GIEREK AND COUNCIL OF STATE CHAIRMAN HENRYK JABLONSKI AND AMPLE, THROUGH UNSUBSTANTIVE, MEDIA COVERAGE. FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL ACTION, RENE LENOIR, WAS THE ONLY OTHER MEMBER OF PONIATOWSKI'S DELEGATION LISTED BY NAME IN THE PRESS.

PONIATOWSKI ALSO CONFERRED WITH VICE PREMIER AND PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN MIECZYSLAW JAGIELSKI, WHO WAS HIS OFFICIAL

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HOST, WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OLSZOWSKI, AND HEALTH MINISTER

SLIWINSKI, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS. PONIATOWSKI ALSO VISITED WROCLAW AND KRAKOW, WHERE HE SAW HISTORICAL SITES AND MEMENTOS RELATED TO HIS CELEBRATED POLISH FOREBEARS, AND POZNAN, WHERE HE WAS AN HONORED GUEST AT THE NATIONAL HARVEST FESTIVAL ATTENDED ALSO BY GIEREK AND THE TOP LEADERSHIP.

2. JUDGING FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS AND VIEWS SO FAR OBTAINED FROM DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THE VISIT WAS TO PREPARE FOR THE EVENTUAL ONE OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, WHOSE ACCEPTANCE OF GIEREK'S INVITATION WAS FORMALLY CONVEYED BY PONIATOWSKI TO THE FIRST SECRETARY DURING THEIR MEETING. ADDITIONALLY, THE GROUNDWORK WAS APPARENTLY LAID FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC COOPERATION. ONE PROJECT REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED INVOLVES FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FUTURE LIBLIN COAL REGION IN RETURN FOR A SHARE OF THE COAL EXTRACTED. A SEPARATE NEWS REPORT APPEARING IN THE PRESS HERE DURING PONIATOWSKI'S STAY DISCUSSED PROBLEMS FRANCE AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN NATIONS HAVE HAD IN EXPANDING THEIR OWN COAL OUTPUT. TRYBUNA LUDU'S PARIS CORRESPONDENT CITED IN A SUBSEQUENT REPORT POLAND'S INCREASED COAL EXPORTS TO FRANCE IN EXCHANGE FOR FRENCH ELECTRONICS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT AS A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE OVERALL EXPANSION OF FRANCO-POLISH TRADE. THE FRENCH FIRM THOMSON-CSF IS POLAND'S LEADING WESTERN PARTNER IN SEMICONDUCTOR PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY, AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR EXPANSION OF THOMSON'S ACTIVITIES HERE HAVE INTENSIFIED SINCE THOMSON PRESIDENT PAUL RICHARD AND DIRECTOR PHILIPP GISCARD D'ESTAING VISITED POLAND IN JUNE.

3. SINGLED OUT AMONG MAJOR POLITICAL TOPICS ADDRESSED WAS CSCE, BUT THE PRESS GAVE LITTLE INDICATION OF THE CONTENT OF THE DISCUSSIONS. AS A SIDELIGHT, WHOEVER, VISITING LE MONDE EDITOR ANDRE FONTAINE GAVE HIS OWN IMPRESSIONS IN AN UNUSUALLY FRANK INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY ZYCIE WARSZAWY THE DAY OF PONIATOWSKI'S ARRIVAL. THOUGH DECLARING HIMSELF AN "ABSOLUTE OPTIMIST" CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF FRANCO-POLISH RELATIONS, FONTAINE NOTED THAT THERE REMAIN "MANY DIFFICULTIES TO RESOLVE" BEFORE A EUROPEAN SECURITY AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED.

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4. PONIATOWSKI, ASSESSING HIS VISIT IN A PRESS CONFERENCE JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, STRESSED THE "FRIENDLY, CONSTRUCTIVE" ATMOSPHERE OF THE TALKS, POLAND'S POSITION AS SECOND AMONG FRANCE'S SOCIALIST-CAMP TRADE PARTNERS, AND POLAND'S IMPRESSIVE ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL, WHICH HE SAID OFFERED "INTERESTING PROSPECTS" FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL COOPERATION. THE CENTRAL PRESS HERE ON SEPTEMBER 12 REPORTED THE PREVIOUS DAYS FRENCH CABINET DISCUSSION OF THE

PONIATOWSKI VISIT, EMPHASIZING GROWING ECONOMIC TIES AND INDICATING THAT GISCARD D'ESTAING WOULD "MOST PROBABLY" VISIT POLAND IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975. IT WAS FURTHER REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES AND THE AGRICULTURAL AND HEALTH MINISTERS WOULD ALSO PAY VISITS TO POLAND.

5. COMMENT: BY ALL APPEARANCES, PONIATOWSKI'S VISIT SIGNIFICANTLY REINFORCED POLAND'S FAVORABLE DEVELOPING RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, WHICH IT WAS POSTULATED AS THE KEYSTONE OF ITS POLICY TOWARD WESTERN EUROPE.
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